

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANAMA 01299 172131Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 171208Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2595

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 01299

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : MARR, BA

SUBJECT : STATUS OF MIDDLE EAST FORCE RENT

REF : MANAMA 1171

1. NOVEMBER 17 FOREIGN MINISTER RAISED FOR FIRST TIME MORE OR LESS FORMALLY THE QUESTION OF WHEN NAVY WOULD PROCEED TO ARRANGE PAYMENT OF \$4 MILLION RENT EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1974. HE EXPLAINED THAT, WHILE ALL PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN CMEF AND GOB HAD BEEN WITH DEVELOPMENT MINISTER SHIRAWI, AS RESULT OF RECENT CABINET REORGANIZATION, MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AL JISHI WAS NOW MIDDLE EAST FORCE'S "LANDLORD". AT AL JISHI'S REQUEST, FOREIGN MINISTER WAS INQUIRING WHETHER THERE WERE ANY DIFFICULTIES WITH REGARD TO OUR HONORING COMMITMENT TO PAY AT \$4 MILLION ANNUAL RATE.

2. I TOLD FOREIGN MINISTER THAT I WAS UNAWARE OF ANY SPECIFIC BUDGETARY PROBLEM ON THE NAVY'S PART BUT DID UNDERSTAND THAT ENTIRE QUESTION OF NAVY'S PRESENCE IN BAHRAIN WAS UNDER HIGH-LEVEL USG REVIEW AS RESULT OF BAHRAIN'S DECISION TO SEEK TERMINATION OF PRESENCE IN 1977. I PROMISED I WOULD RELAY HIS QUERY TO WASHINGTON AND SEEK A RESPONSE.

3. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PASS THIS MESSAGE TO SECDEF, CNO, CINCUSNAVEUR AND COMIDEASTFOR.

TWINAM

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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